

- (5) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFs, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%.
- (6) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (7) The import of a large number of garment machinery has been allowed under concessional custom duty of 5%.
- (8) To prepare and sensitise our textile and garment industry to conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries by providing facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories.

**Setting up a separate yarn depot in Sircilla, A.P.**

1170. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Textile Corporation has set up a separate yarn depot in Sircilla in Karimnagar in Andhra Pradesh in order to ensure timely supply of cotton yarn for the powerloom weavers;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to open more such yarn depots in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Cotton purchase scheme for next Five Years**

†1171. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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(a) whether Government have sanctioned the cotton purchase scheme for the next five years;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that monopoly of purchase is got under the said scheme;

(c) if so, whether monopoly in cotton purchase is a policy decision in view of the promotion of policy of liberalization and globalization; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Government of India has approved the continuation of the Raw Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme in the State of Maharashtra only, for a further period of five years i.e. upto 30.6.2006, as requested by the Government of Maharashtra with the stipulation that in the operation of the scheme there will be no financial liability on the part of the Government of India.

(c) and (d) The Central Government has approved the Raw Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme in the State of Maharashtra, acceding the request of the Government of Maharashtra that the Scheme is beneficial to the cotton growers of the State.

**Development of handicraft in tribal/backward/hilly and rural areas of the country**

1172. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes for the development of handicrafts running in the country, specially in tribal/backward/hilly areas and rural areas, separately;

(b) the amount allocated and released under these schemes to each State during the last three years, till date (year-wise), (scheme-wise);

(c) whether any review so far has been made for the export/development of handicrafts in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and